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OSSI Perspectives

*Dr. Vivian Williamson Whitney and Courtney (Danto) Merrell,
Co-Editors OSSI Times eNews*

Welcome to the second edition of the **OSSI Times eNews!** We are pleased to share some of the major accomplishments achieved by our students and strategic partners. These accomplishments would not have happened without your encouragement and active involvement. Thank you for joining with us to ensure that OSSI's 1st year of implementation exceeded all expectations!!! We hope you enjoy reading the updates of the collaborative efforts that are featured in this newsletter.



Thanks to the work of OSSI Center Administrators, Broker-Facilitators and mentors, students who utilized the OSSI application system were successfully on-boarded and have wrapped up their Summer 2011 NASA opportunities. Students are receiving offers for the Fall 2011 session and will continue to apply for Spring 2012 opportunities. Over 1,925 opportunities were posted in the OSSI Application System for student access. Students have completed 912 applications for Fall 2011 opportunities, 359 for Spring 2012 applications, and 1,321 for Year-Long opportunities.

As a reminder, please forward all inquiries to OSSI Coordinators, Darla Jones (darla.j.jones@nasa.org) and Fawn Stanton (fawn.stanton@nasa.gov) instead of the OSSI Support Team (GSFC Code 700). The OSSI Coordinators will manage all System Investigation Reports (SIRs), concerns and meeting requests.

For non-technical questions, please contact the Business Management Organization (BMO) at OSSI@oai.org or your OSSI Center Administrator.



Congratulations to NASA's Agency Honor Award and Medal Recipients

The One Stop Shopping Initiative (OSSI) for NASA Internship, Fellowship, and Scholarship Opportunities received the NASA Agency Group Achievement Award. The award was presented in recognition of "outstanding accomplishment through the coordination of efforts that made a substantial contribution to NASA's mission." This award was presented at NASA Headquarters on June 30, 2011. The following OSSI strategic partners received this outstanding recognition:

NASA Offices of Education (HQ/Centers)

NASA Offices of Human Capital Management (HQ/Centers)

NASA Offices of Diversity and Equal Opportunities (HQ/Centers)

NASA Mission Directorates

**NASA GSFC, Information, Technology, and Communication
Directorate**

Ohio Aerospace Institute

American Indian Higher Education Consortium

Hispanic College Fund

Institute for Broadening Participation

United Negro College Fund Special Programs

Omni Media Cast Technologies

We are equally excited to announce that **Dr. Mabel J. Matthews**, Higher Education Manager, Office of Education and OSSI Owner, received the Exceptional Achievement Medal. This medal was awarded to Dr. Matthews for "outstanding accomplishments which resulted in substantial improvements in operations, efficiency, and service that advanced NASA's mission."

OSSI stakeholders are indebted to Dr. Matthews for her hard work and creativity that established the concept, design, and implementation of this innovative, mission-enabling, Agency-wide workforce development initiative. Congratulations to Dr. Matthews for receiving this important agency-wide honor.





*Dr. Mabel J. Matthews receives the Exceptional Achievement Medal.
L to R: Christopher Scolese, Dr. Mabel Matthews, Charles Bolden*



*OSSI Stakeholders present at the NASA Agency Group Achievement Award presentation.
L to R: Leland Melvin, James Stofan, Joe Stevens, Holly Triska,
Shanessa Jackson, Dr. Warner Ithier Guzman, Fawn Stanton,
Dr. Mabel Matthews, Dr. Sonya Greene, Debbie Sharpe,
Sondra Lancaster, Courtney Merrell, Katelyn Doran, Leo Geiger,
Dr. Vivian Williamson Whitney, Dr. Adrian Gardner*



2011 Education Stakeholders' Summit **"Enhancing NASA's Infrastructure for the** **STEM Workforce of Tomorrow"**

November 29, 2011 – December 2, 2011, Chantilly, Virginia

One of NASA's strategic goals is to provide opportunities for the public, educators, and students to participate in NASA's Mission, foster innovation, and contribute to a strong national economy. Objectives of this goal include improving recruitment and retention of students in science, technology, engineering, and mathematics (STEM); promoting STEM literacy through strategic partnerships; and informing, engaging, and inspiring the public by sharing NASA's missions, challenges, and results. In keeping with this goal, the first annual NASA Education Stakeholders' Summit was convened in 2010 to bring together high-level representatives of NASA, other Federal Agencies, academia and industry to raise awareness and provide forums for dialogue to enhance STEM education and workforce development.

This year's Summit theme is "Enhancing NASA's Infrastructure for the STEM Workforce of Tomorrow." The agenda will focus on building an infrastructure that will attract, retain, and develop the future STEM workforce. A key element of NASA's infrastructure is the One Stop Shopping Initiative (OSSI). OSSI is an innovative, mission-enabling, NASA-wide approach to market and provide access to the universe of NASA internship, fellowship, and scholarship opportunities and ultimately provide career development that connects students to employment in NASA's or the Nation's STEM workforce. During the Summit, NASA officials will describe new agency-wide developments and engage in discussions pertaining to each strategic stakeholder's role in OSSI. In addition, the officials will share best practices and lessons learned from OSSI's first year and describe ongoing implementation efforts of the OSSI model which contains the design phases of Recruit, Retain and Develop; Select, Place and Mentor; Workforce Entry; and Longitudinal Study.

Critical to the success of OSSI are its strategic partners. OSSI brings together NASA Offices of Education, Human Capital, Diversity and Equal Opportunity, and Mission Directorates with select Non-Profit, Business and Academic partners to reach, engage and support eligible STEM students. OSSI's strategic partners will share their visions for the future, strategies for a strong STEM workforce, and efforts towards fully implementing the OSSI model. Attendees will gain an understanding of NASA's perspective on STEM work force development and competency needs, learn about the importance of building bridges to underrepresented students, and become familiar with communications' best practices for reaching out to the new generation of Millennials and Digital Natives.



2011 Education Stakeholders' Summit, continued

Every infrastructure needs a foundation. The Summit will explore ways in which STEM organizations can be known as a cool place to work. This "cool factor" can serve as an excellent foundation for attracting, retaining, and developing the STEM workforce. The Summit's keynote speaker, John Berry, Director of the United States Office of Personnel Management, is working closely with partners both inside and outside of government to fulfill President Barack Obama's charge to "make government cool again." Mr. Berry will share his strategies for reinvigorating the Federal workforce to meet the challenges of the 21st century. We will also hear from NASA, academia, and industry on how to attract and inspire the STEM workforce and from NASA Student Ambassadors on their internship/ fellowship experiences.

As a special feature, the Summit will highlight several research and education funding opportunities for colleges and universities. Included is a day of discussion about funding opportunities available through NASA Education and Mission Directorates. The Summit agenda includes a "pre-solicitation" workshop on funding opportunities within NASA's new ISS National Education Lab (ISSNEL) project. Participants will gain knowledge about key elements of this exciting new opportunity, how to submit a winning proposal, and how applicants might identify collaborators with which to partner in submitting ISSNEL proposals.

Throughout this Summit, NASA officials will discuss progress on strategic STEM workforce objectives. We invite our fellow STEM stakeholders to join in the discussions as we collaboratively move forward to implement strategic plans necessary to enhance NASA's infrastructure for the STEM workforce of tomorrow.

<http://intern.nasa.gov/summit/>



National Aeronautics and Space Administration

2011 Education Stakeholders' Summit

New Focus...New Dates
November 29-December 2, 2011

Enhancing NASA's Infrastructure for the STEM Workforce of Tomorrow

NASA'S ONE STOP SHOPPING INITIATIVE (OSSI)
For NASA Internship, Fellowship, and Scholarship Opportunities
An Innovative Solution to Support the STEM Workforce of Tomorrow

SUMMIT TOPICS INCLUDE:

- Effectively messaging our future workforce: It's cool to work for the Federal Government!
- Optimizing NASA's Infrastructure for the STEM workforce of tomorrow.
- NASA's One Stop Shopping Initiative progress updates
- Best practices exchange

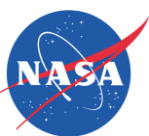
WHO SHOULD ATTEND?

- Representatives of NASA HQ/Center Mission organizations, Education, Human Capital and Management, Diversity and Equal Opportunity, and Communications offices and programs
- Higher education institutions
- Aerospace industry professionals
- NASA contractors
- Professional associations
- Organizations supporting diversity of students pursuing STEM disciplines

LOCATION Westfields Marriott Washington Dulles
14750 Conference Center Drive
Chantilly, VA 20151

REGISTRATION IS REQUIRED
www.nasa.gov

FURTHER DETAILS AND REGISTRATION WILL BE AVAILABLE AT:
<http://intern.nasa.gov/summit>



OSSI Strategic Management Teams

The OSSI organizational leadership consists of a collaborative team structure. The **OSSI HQ Policy Team** provides guidance for the following strategic management teams. Below is a brief synopsis of the responsibilities, memberships and meeting schedules of OSSI teams.

OSSI HQ Policy Team (OHPT)

Lead: Dr. Mabel Matthews

Members: OSSI Coordinators-Darla Jones and Fawn Stanton; OSSI Communication & Change Management Coordinator-Kimberly Van Valkenburgh; OSSI LaunchPad Coordinator-Leo Geiger

Ex-officio Members: OSSI Process Documentation Coordinator-Dr. Vivian Williamson Whitney and OE Budget Officer-Andrew Hubbard

Purpose: to provide oversight, direction and policy for OSSI and ensure strategic decision-making and maintain a systematic approval process for deliverables, etc. **Meeting**

Day/Time: Weekly/Tuesday 8am ET

Operational Team

Co-Leads: Fawn Stanton, Heidi Sibayton

Members: OSSI OHPT and GSFC 700 Team (programmatic and IT developers)

Purpose: Ensure transparency and cohesion between the various OSSI system components.

Meeting Day/Time: Weekly/Wednesday 8am ET

Implementation Team:

Co-Leads: Russell Dare, Darla Jones

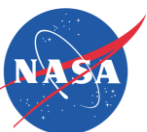
Members: OSSI Administrators, Broker-Facilitator Corps (BFC), and Business Management Organization (BMO)

Purpose: Support the expansion of the utilization and implementation of OSSI.

Meeting Day/Time: 2nd & 4th Thursday 2-4pm ET

OSSI Operational Assumptions:

***The origination of OSSI support will begin with OSSI Coordinators.
If actions/requests are received by GSFC 700 Team, the requestors/request
will be redirected to OSSI Coordinators.***



OSSI Strategic Management Teams, continued:

Business Management Team:

Co-Leads: Ann Heyward, Hispanic College Fund (Rotation One)

Members: Representatives from BMO, BFC, OSSI Center Administrators, OHPT

Purpose: Provide overall business management of the One Stop Shopping Initiative, develop and implement national marketing and awareness. With all OSSI partners, organize annual NASA Education Stakeholders' Summit and other awareness/outreach activities.

Meeting Day/Time: 1st & 3rd Thursday 2-4pm ET

Process Documentation Team:

Co-Leads: Dr. Vivian Williamson Whitney, Kimberly Van Valkenburgh

Members: Representatives from each strategic partner

Purpose: To document the implementation process of the OSSI Model by the strategic partners. To design next-steps for introducing options for academic and industry partners to participate in OSSI student application pool.

Meeting Day/Time: Monthly/4th Tuesday 2-4pm ET

Configuration Control Board (CCB):

Chair, Higher Education Manager, NASA Office of Education (OSSI Sponsor and functional/business lead)

Co-Chairs: OSSI:SOLAR Project Manager (technical lead) and OSSI Coordinator

Members: One Mission Directorate Representative, One representative of the OSSI Center Administrators (monthly rotation beginning with ARC); One representative from the Broker-Facilitator Corps (monthly rotation beginning with American Indian Higher Education Consortium); One representative of the Business Management Organization; Office of Human Capital Management OSSI Representative; Office of Diversity and Equal Opportunity OSSI Representative

Purpose: The CCB is the governing body responsible for reviewing, prioritizing, and approving proposed changes and discrepancy fixes for development and implementation of the OSSI IT tool, Student On-Line Application for Recruiting Interns, Fellows, and Scholars (OSSI:SOLAR).

Meeting Day/Time: Orientation/Wednesday 2-4pm ET , September 14, 2011;

Official Meeting/Wednesday 2-4pm ET, September 21, 2011



Announcements

Congratulations to the following OSSI team members on their new roles:

- Darla Jones: OSSI Coordinator, OSSI HQ Policy Team
- Fawn Stanton: OSSI Assistant Coordinator, OSSI HQ Policy Team

Welcome to two new OSSI team members Michele Wockenfuss and Kimberly Van Valkenburgh!

- Michele Wockenfuss: Chief of NASA Goddard Space Flight Center's Program Integration and Management Division within the Information Technology and Communications Directorate.
- Kimberly Van Valkenburgh: Communication and Change Management Coordinator, Process Documentation Team

Stay Tuned...

The next *OSSI Times eNews* will include implementation updates, student and stakeholder spotlights, and details on NASA Education Stakeholders' Summit II.



OSSI:SOLAR Application Dates

	Fall 2011	Spring 2012	Summer 2012	Academic Year 2011-2012 Scholarships
Student application period	Mar 16, 2011-May 31, 2011 (closed)	Jun 1, 2011-Oct 11, 2011	Nov 1, 2011-Feb 1, 2012	Nov 1, 2011-Feb 1, 2012

For information on upcoming NASA fellowship opportunities, please visit:

- <https://fellowships.nasaprs.com/gsrp/nav/>
- <http://www.uncfsp.org/jpfp>



Darla Jones Received Award from SGT Inc.

Darla Jones, OSSI Coordinator, recently received the Special Achievement Award from Stinger Ghaffarian Technologies (SGT), Inc. The award was presented on July 29 at the NASA Glenn Research Center in recognition of Darla's exceptional dedication and support to NASA under the TIALS contract.

The OSSI Team joins in congratulating Darla for receiving this special recognition from her colleagues at Stinger Ghaffarian Technologies, Inc.



OSSI LaunchPad Updates

The OSSI LaunchPad team is pleased to announce three new exciting tools to assist us in meeting OSSI's guiding principle of application integration. These tools will help promote student attraction, recruitment, retention, and development.

OSSI Broker-Facilitator Corps Professional Development Videos:

We have created a new section within the LaunchPad that will become the One Stop location for high-quality interactive videos.



OSSI Student Online Research Journal (SORJ) Tool:

The SORJ is a reservoir of Abstracts of students' internship and fellowship reports and poster presentations. The SORJ also includes applicable citations of technical papers derived from the internships and fellowships.



OSSI Featured NASA Student Ambassadors (NSAVC):

NSAVC interns are now showcased in this section. Various media are used to share interviews, event participation, NASA project activities, and community outreach services provided by the Ambassadors.



Broker-Facilitator Corps' Corner

American Indian Higher Education Consortium (AIHEC)

OSSI: SOLAR Awareness: AIHEC actively participated in seven national STEM and student focused conferences in order to recruit as many Tribal Colleges and Universities (TCU) and American Indian students as possible into OSSI. This year, AIHEC hosted four successful Regional Workshops: one in the Northwest, one in the Plains, one in the Southwest, and one in the Woodlands. This was done in order to target all TCU students. AIHEC also visited two TCUs and met with STEM faculty and TCU Presidents to discuss best practices in recruiting TCU students. In addition, AIHEC hosted two webinars at AIHEC's central office. The webinars were all day events, tailored to TCU students who had questions or needed help with completing their interest profiles as well as finding their perfect fit in NASA.

Student Recruitment: OSSI was and continues to be a success at the Tribal Colleges! Over 60 students from 20 TCUs applied for opportunities through OSSI, exceeding our recruitment quota by over 50%! We are staying in touch with our students with NASA internships and are thrilled with their accomplishments.

Looking Forward: This upcoming Fall, AIHEC plans to build on our recruitment success by encouraging students who completed internships this summer to help spread the word on their campuses. TCU faculty who helped recruit students will continue to serve as OSSI advocates and experts at their colleges. In addition to the four Regional Workshops, AIHEC will continue to participate in national conferences, recruiting the best students possible into OSSI. AIHEC will conduct additional TCU site visits, timing them to coincide with campus career fairs.

Hispanic College Fund (HCF)

HCF held a NASA Awareness workshop on Saturday, April 16th, at the California MESA Community College Program Student Leadership Retreat. Presenters included Maria C. Lopez from the Office of Education, Engineers Confesor Santiago and Aisha Bowe, NASA Student Ambassador Michael Barnes, and NASA MUST Scholars (who are also California MESA Community College Program Alumni) Denice Calderon and Ricky Fernandez. Workshop sessions included: **Applying to NASA Opportunities:** This session provided an overview of the OSSI application system and process for students who wished to apply for internships, fellowships, and scholarships.

NASA Student Panel: Students shared their first-hand experience at NASA and the Agency's role in their professional development. They also shared strategies to prepare and apply for internships.

NASA Representatives: A panel consisting of NASA education staff and mentors discussed the path that each took to become a professional within his/her field at NASA. Panelists offered advice to participants considering a career with NASA. Photos from the awareness events may be found at:

<http://www.flickr.com/photos/hispaniccollegefund/collections/72157626483256740/>



Broker-Facilitator Corps' Corner

Institute for Broadening Participation (IBP)

The Institute for Broadening Participation (IBP) is the Broker-Facilitator for Primarily White Institutions (PWIs) in OSSI and is involved in several OSSI-related activities. In conjunction with the recent National Science Foundation (NSF) HRD-JAM conference, IBP convened half of its team of Regional Specialists for an annual orientation. Regional Specialists are faculty, staff, and administrators that assist IBP with student outreach and student data collection. A second orientation will be held in conjunction with the fall SACNAS (Society for Advancing Chicanos and Native Americans in Science) conference, where IBP is also hosting a panel of student presenters who received NASA fellowships, internships, and scholarships. IBP coordinated a panel at the recent WEPAN (Women in Engineering Pro-Active Network) conference in Seattle, WA. This panel focused on breaking institutional barriers to broadening participation in engineering higher education. As one of four panelists, Dr. Ashanti Johnson, IBP Executive Director, presented IBP's work with NASA OSSI as a case study for collaborative recruitment and student support strategies in STEM. IBP is currently working on virtual outreach to make students aware of OSSI application deadlines. Each summer, IBP spends a significant amount of time reaching out to summer research students, faculty, and administrators to make them aware of NASA STEM resources.

United Negro College Fund Special Programs Corporation (UNCFSP)

UNCFSP serves as the NASA OSSI Broker Facilitator for Predominantly Black Institutions (PBIs) including HBCUs. Working in this capacity, UNCFSP employs a marketing and outreach strategy that informs and educates OSSI stakeholders on the benefits of pursuing NASA-related opportunities. As a result, during Year One activities, UNCFSP participated in six on-campus career fairs, conducted OSSI:SOLAR information sessions at three PBI campuses, recruited at two national conferences, and provided one-on-one application assistance to students via telephone and webinar. In addition, UNCFSP broadened its reach to students and faculty by collaborating with NASA Kennedy Space Center (KSC) and NASA Langley Research Center (LRC) at recruitment events. In February, UNCFSP hosted a NASA OSSI Awareness Day at North Carolina A&T State University, yielding attendance of more than 80 students and faculty, including participants from nearby St. Augustine's University. Ms. Devin Pugh-Thomas from NASA LRC addressed the students, as did NASA Ambassadors Renada Dukes (Morgan State University) and Michael Gillespie (North Carolina A&T State University). UNCFSP also maintains an OSSI:SOLAR networking presence through Facebook and Twitter. "Tweets" about NASA OSSI, OSSI:SOLAR, upcoming webinars, and application deadlines are posted as needed. Students and faculty are also encouraged to share relevant OSSI:SOLAR information on these sites. Building upon the success of NASA OSSI:SOLAR, UNCFSP recruitment and outreach will continue to reinforce current efforts to engage students and prepare them for the NASA workforce pipeline.



OSSI Stakeholders' Spotlight

OSSI Student Spotlight:

Katelyn Doran Received Award at NASA's IT Summit

Katelyn Doran received the Office of the Chief Information Officer (OCIO) Student Innovator Award at the NASA IT Summit held in San Francisco, California on August 14-17, 2011. The OCIO recognizes undergraduate/ graduate students for their use of technology in inspiring the K-12 and peer community through NASA-related outreach activities and educational interactions. Katelyn was recognized for her use of technology in innovative ways to promote STEM literacy and education among under-served students. Katelyn created multiple video games for students within the field of Computer Science.



Additionally, Katelyn participated in outreach activities in her local community and abroad. Her outreach focus was the

creation and implementation of a 10-week curriculum on video game design for middle school students in Charlotte, NC. This curriculum will be utilized as part of the Citizen Schools Apprenticeship Program for the 6th time this Fall. Currently, Katelyn is focusing her research on the development of educational simulation games for the One Laptop Per Child Project that provides laptops for children in Haiti.

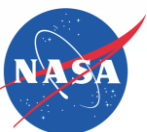
Congratulations to Katelyn for inspiring the next generation of computer technologists!!



International Astronautical Congress (IAC) 2011 *Cape Town, South Africa*

Congratulations to the following students who were selected to accompany Associate Administrator for Education Leland Melvin to the 62nd IAC in Cape Town, South Africa, on October 3-7, 2011:

- **Lisa Anderson-Antle**, Wisconsin State University
- **Matthew Cannella**, University of Colorado
- **Ashley Chandler**, Stanford University
- **Nicole Herrmann**, George Washington University
- **Quincy Johnson**, Prairie View A&M University
- **Miraida Pagan**, University of Puerto Rico
- **Anita Lewis**, Texas Southern University
- **Christopher Skipwith**, University of Pennsylvania
- **Kathryn Williamson**, Montana State University



OSSI Stakeholders' Spotlight

NASA Workforce Pipeline Spotlight:

Ray Gilstrap, Network Engineer, *Ames Research Center*



Ray Gilstrap

Ray Gilstrap is a full time employee at Ames Research Center. He is completing a PhD in Electrical Engineering at Stanford University, with research interests in networking and communications. In his Designing Liberation Technologies class, Ray worked with the University of Nairobi, the Mathare Youth Sports Association, and the Umande Trust to design mobile applications. These applications were utilized to promote health, education, and economic development in the Kibera and Mathare slums in Nairobi.

Ray and three other students developed a concept and initial prototype for a coordinated group walking service that enables women to walk safely during non-daylight hours to destinations such as work, the market, medical facilities, or community toilets. Walking groups are led by vetted and trusted members of the community. The groups travel along fixed routes and pick up new travelers at fixed meeting points (essentially, a bus route on foot). The locations of the walking groups are tracked by GPS. A woman wishing to use the service can request by text message an estimate of the time that the next group will arrive at a meeting point near her. This project has received an enthusiastic response from both Kenyan partners and organizations within Stanford. Ray traveled to Nairobi this summer to meet with local officials and community members about further implementation of the project. More information on the class is at <http://hci.stanford.edu/courses/cs3791/>

Ray has also taken a series of courses on spacecraft design in Stanford's Department of Aeronautics and Astronautics. Much of the work was focused on the Cubesat platform. The Cubesat platform is a low-cost nanosatellite that makes it financially possible for universities to develop and launch their own nanosatellite. Additionally, he was part of an Ames team that worked with Johnson last year on a NSBE-led project to design a nanosatellite containing a collapsible optical telescope.

The **OSSI Times** is pleased to spotlight the efforts of Ray Gilstrap as he moves toward leadership in the STEM workforce of tomorrow.

**The NASA Education Student
On-line Research Journal is now posted
and ready to read.**

<http://intern.nasa.gov/research/index.html>



OSSI Stakeholders' Spotlight

OSSI Education Partners Spotlight: Dr. Ashanti Johnson & Dr. Aprille J. Ericsson

The March 2011 *Black Enterprise Magazine* featured a special report entitled, "Women in STEM." The five women were highlighted have attained unparalleled professional advancement, groundbreaking discoveries, and peer recognition, while at the same time have been heavily involved in STEM Education outreach to the Higher Education and K-12 communities.

One of the OSSI Broker-Facilitators, **Dr. Ashanti Johnson**, Executive Director of the Institute for Broadening Participation, was highlighted in this article. Dr. Johnson, an aquatic radiogeochemist, recently received the Presidential Award for Excellence in STEM Mentoring from President Barack Obama. The article stated that Dr. Johnson "was instrumental in decoding the environmental effects of potentially hazardous incidents throughout Puerto Rico." Dr. Johnson's *Minorities Striving and Pursuing Higher Degrees of Success (MS PHD'S)* Program has provided professional development and mentor support for over 150 STEM undergraduate and graduate students.

Dr. Aprille J. Ericsson, NASA GSFC Deputy Instrument Manager for the ATLAS Instrument Team, was also featured in the article. Dr. Ericsson is currently assisting the Office of Education in planning a STEM outreach activity for Grades 6, 7, & 8, which includes a segment focused on increasing the interest of girls in STEM education. This outreach activity will be held during the 2011 International Astronautical Congress (IAC) in Cape Town, South Africa.

Hats off to these two scientists for increasing interests in women and girls in STEM!

<http://www.blackenterprise.com/2011/03/01/women-in-stem/>



Ashanti Johnson
(Photo by Steve McAlister)



Aprille J. Ericsson
(Photo by Kevin Allen)



OSSI Stakeholders' Spotlight

OSSI Center Spotlight: *Ames Research Center*

Tiffany Kataria applied for the Graduate Student Research Program via the Student On-Line Application for Recruiting Interns, Fellows, and Scholars (OSSI:SOLAR) system. She was unaware of other NASA fellowship programs. Imagine her surprise when she was offered the Harriet Jenkins Pre-Doctoral Fellowship Program (JPFP) opportunity. Tiffany's experience, along with a few other graduate students selected for the JPFP Program at Ames, demonstrates the heightened capacity of the One-Stop Shopping Initiative. OSSI:SOLAR increases a student's chance of being selected for an opportunity by providing maximum exposure for student applicants.

In the past, students usually applied to only one program for a summer internship at NASA Ames Research Center because each program had a separate application process. The application process occurs during the spring semester, so applying to multiple programs while carrying a fulltime school load was uncommon. However, for Summer 2011, students who applied through OSSI:SOLAR were considered for multiple programs and funding sources. Many of the students applied for 15 opportunities. Quite a few students were selected for opportunities that they did not apply for because a mentor found the student through a search by academic major and other criteria.

From a Center Education's view, OSSI:SOLAR helped streamline the process for bringing interns to Ames through multiple programs. Each summer, Ames is allocated a certain number of interns for specific programs. For example, the Undergraduate Student Research Program (USRP) allocated 30 interns for Ames and the Achieving Competence in Computing, Engineering and Space Science project, or ACCESS, allotted 2 interns for Ames. The traditional National Higher Education programs at Ames include Space Grants that focus on specific states that Ames partners with on a regular basis. Space Grant participation was greatly improved in this Summer 2011 session. The OSSI:SOLAR system provided the capability for the Ames Higher Education staff to see which students mentors selected and what states these students were from. The Higher Education team then reached out to those states for Space Grant support and increased Space Grant participation by 120% from Summer 2010 to Summer 2011. This is the greatest number of Space Grant students Ames has had for any internship session and the most diverse set of states represented. This participation and diversity would not be possible without OSSI!





Hot Topics

at the NSAVC

NASA Student Ambassadors Virtual Community (NSAVC) Witnessed the Final Launch of Space Shuttle Atlantis

On the historic occasion of the final mission of the United States Space Shuttle program, sixteen NASA Student Ambassadors participated in the STS-135 Pre-Launch Education Un-Conference. Participating ambassadors shared common interests in NASA's mission and Science, Technology, Engineering and Mathematics (STEM). They assisted select facilitators during the Un-Conference and afterward witnessed the final launch of Space Shuttle Atlantis at Kennedy Space Center on July 8, 2011.



Student Participants in the STS-135 Pre-Launch Education Un-Conference

The NASA Student Ambassadors interacted with NASA engineers and technicians working in the areas of aeronautics, space exploration, robotics and technology. They also learned, share information and networked with other students and specialists working in their own areas of interests. In particular, they expressed how excited they were to meet former NASA Astronaut (STS-122 and STS-129), Associate Administrator Leland Melvin and former NASA Astronaut (STS-117), Richard R. Arnold, II. Participation in this once-in-a-lifetime event will certainly play an important role in their academic pursuits, career development, and future STEM aspirations.

In addition, it's that time of year again! The 2012 Call for Nominations for Cohort IV is seeking NASA Student Ambassadors to serve as "inspirers and motivators" to communicate the NASA story within the STEM community. For detailed information, please send an email to Fawn.Stanton@nasa.gov



OSSI Strategic Model and Guiding Principles

• Mission Enabling:

- One application, one point of entry to increase branding and access to all Agency-wide internship/fellowship opportunities for students pursuing degrees in STEM fields that meet NASA's critical competency needs.

• Application Integration:

- Promotes collaboration, standardization and integration of information related to the four OSSI pillars:
 1. Student recruitment, retention and development
 2. Interns/fellows selection, placement, and mentoring
 3. Workforce entry
 4. Longitudinal study

• Secured Solutions:

- Implements, sustains, coordinates and secures information technology processes to protect privacy information from unauthorized disclosure in compliance with requirements outlined in the Paperwork Reduction Act (44 USC 3501-3520), Privacy Act of 1974 and amendments, and other federal laws, regulations, and guidance pertaining thereto.

• Expert Advocacy:

- Culturally competent Broker-Facilitator Corps networking for selected types of institutions to enhance the recruitment and retention of highly qualified STEM students for the NASA workforce pipeline; and career path liaisons engaging, inspiring, and guiding STEM students toward career-self understanding.

